

Message Text

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63

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04

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R 191531Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8226

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 5100

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EINV, GT

SUBJ: IMPORTS AND LOCAL PRODUCTION OF GLASS CONTAINERS

REF: STATE 217406

1. TOTAL GUATEMALAN IMPORTS FROM NON-CACM COUNTRIES FOR
PASTY THREE YEARS IN KILOS AND US DOLLARS ARE:

	1972	1973	1974
US DOLLARS	589,904	768,578	1,256,190
KILOS	852,381	X0\$#0?03	1,519,584

2. CAVISA, THE ONLY GLASS FACTORY OF CENTRAL AMERICA,
INCUDING PANAMA, IS LOCATED IN GUATEMALA CITY. IT IS
OWNED BY MEXICAN, COSTA RICAN AND GUATEMALAN BUSINESSMEN
AND SUPPLIES MOST OF CA NEEDS FOR CONTAINERS, THOUGH IT
PRODUCES NO PLATE GLASS. MOST GLASS CONTAINERS IMPORTED
INTO GUATEMALA ARE OF SPECIAL SHAPES AND COLORS THAT WOULD
NOT BE PROFITABLE FOR CAVISA TO PRODUCE.

3. CAVISA RECENTLY INITIATED NEW SILICA MINE AND THUS NO
LONGER NEEDS TO IMPORT SILICA NOR FELDSPAR. WITH INSTALLA-
TION OF FOURTH OVEN IN OCTOBER OF 1974, CAVISA IS NOW OPERATING
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AT 70 PERCENT CAPACITY EVEN THOUGH IT IS EXPANDING THE PRODUCT

LINE. 1975 PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE 88,000 METRIC TONS.
CONSEQUENTLY, MANAGEMENT CALCULATES THAT CAVISA WILL BE ABLE
TO MEET CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMAND THROUGH EARLY 1980'S
WITHOUT FURTHER PLANT EXPANSION.
MELOY

NOTE : # AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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